

STAT

Trade Unions to Educate Masses in Communism

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## THE TRADE UNIONS, THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNISM

Todor Prakhov

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(Georgi Dimitrov, Rechii, dokladi, statii (Speeches, lectures, articles), vol. III, p. 580.)

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the years 1944-49 constructed housing space of 115,596 square meters at a cost of 1,957,213.000 leva, 192 dormitories at a cost of 701,404,000 leva, and in 1950 alone, housing at a cost of about 400 million leva was constructed.

According to the national economic five-year plan, the construction of 1,300,000 square meters of housing space is contemplated, of which 910,000 square meters are destined for workers in industrial enterprises.

The children of the working people are likewise growing up under the care of the Party, our People's Government and the trade unions. Whereas, before 9 September they were reduced to haphazard care and practically brought up on the streets, today almost every major enterprise and the neighborhoods have well-equipped nurseries and kindergartens with trained nurses, doctors etc. Thousands of women workers, content and unafraid for their children, now work in production, and together with the men exceed the norms, become shockworkers etc.

The greatest effort is being made by the Party, our People's Government and the trade unions for the betterment of the health and physical condition of our working people. The Task of OPRS, by means of the Otdikh i kultura (rest and culture) arrangements and the various trade unions by means of their rest homes, assure recreation to the workers and employees that previously couldn't even be dreamed of. Borovets, Pamporovo, Kostenets, Stalin and other beautiful, climatic health resorts which previously were accessible only to the parasitic capitalist class are today reserved for the working people alone.

Enormous amounts are allotted for the recreation of the builders of socialism in our country. While during 1945, 11,862,570 leva were spent, the amount for the year 1950 is 500,000,000 leva. The Task of

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OPRS organizes, together with our brethren of the trade unions in other People's Democratic countries, exchanges of vacationing workers and employees. The best and most outstanding of our workers and employees together with their comrades from other People's Democratic countries spend free vacations in world-famous spas. Strengthened and enriched by the most varied experiences, they will, upon their return work for the speedier building of socialism in our People's Republic with even greater devotion to the Party and our People's Government, with even greater zeal and enthusiasm.

The collective labor contracts are a mighty means for increasing labor productivity. For mobilization of the efforts of the working class and the engineering and technological cadres in the fight for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the economic plan ahead of schedule in all phases. They are means of increasing the responsibility of the economic and trade-union leaders for systematic improvement of the communal living conditions and cultural services of workers and employees. Along with this, the contracts are the basis for all-around trade-union activity in the enterprises, the productivity of the masses, the protection of labor, and for culture among the masses, etc.

"The collective labor contract is the basis of trade-union work in the enterprise, since it is in the collective contract that all paths cross leading to the solution of the problems of wages, the organization of work, and cultural and communal services." (N. M. Shvernik, before the 2nd Plenary Session of the VTsSPS).

The important role and significance of the collective labor contracts in the life of a given enterprise for raising the material and cultural standard of living of the working class can be seen from the number of collective labor contracts concluded: during 1950 in 1,800

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enterprises, and during 1951 in over 2,000. During 1950, in about 1,300 enterprises 1,009,040,284 leva were spent on the contracts, and in 1951, in 915 enterprises alone 2,855,053,973 leva are allotted for this purpose.

An important task of the trade unions is to keep a check on the fulfillment of the collective labor contracts.

With Decree No 84 of 26 January 1951 of the Council of Ministers, the Party and the Government handed control of labor and social security directly to the Tsk of the ORPS and the trade unions. This new achievement of our working class assures large-scale possibilities for more efficient social control and education of workers and employees in a socialist relationship to labor.

Comrade Stalin teaches us that "the higher the political level and Marxist-Leninist consciousness of a functionary, in whatever field of government and party work, the higher and more fertile is the work itself, the more efficient are the results of his work." (I.V. Stalin, Voprosy Leninizma (Problems of Leninism), p. 616.)

The socialist consciousness of the working masses is a decisive condition for a successful movement ahead, for the successful fulfillment of plans, for the building of socialism in our country.

Hence, one of the fundamental tasks of trade unions is to educate the working masses in the great ideas of Marxism-Leninism, to raise their cultural level, to instill in them the new, socialist relationship to their work and to public property, to fan socialist competition.

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Our trade unions have the responsible task of creating new cadres for economic and cultural life, of working actively toward the eradication of all bourgeois residues in the consciousness of the workers and employees. They have the important task of becoming a school for the socialist education of our working masses. Georgi Dimitrov teaches us: "So that our trade unions may be able to fulfill this great, and in certain respects, decisive part of theirs at the present moment, they must educate and constantly prepare in the process of work, creation, and struggle, cadres devoted to the working class, to our people, cadres that are politically educated, working and engineering and technological cadres that are qualified and that know whether goes the evolution of society, what the perspective is, and cadres that are learning to govern the state, the community, and production, by administrating and not by speech-making."

The trade unions have to become the forge of our cadres, the school of socialism.

In fulfillment of these objectives, the trade unions under the leadership of the Party are organizing schools, courses and seminars for the preparation of professional cadres. They develop large-scale political activity among the masses of workers and employees; they organize popular panels, radio and motion picture propaganda, reading of political, technical and artistic literature, varied activity in the clubs and red circles; they involve the working masses in amateur performance activity; they give care to the education of the children of workers and employees, etc.

There is an uninterrupted increase in the number of trade-union courses, libraries and reading rooms, enriched with artistic, technical,

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organizational, and other literature, In the beginning of 1951, 3,237 libraries and 3,077 reading rooms served our workers and employees. In these, panels are held on books, exhibits and showcases are set up, readers' interest and other groups are active. In the Yordanka Chankova Dormitory, three readers' groups of 60 girls went over the following books: Somewhere in Siberia by Iroshnikov, The Gentleman of the Golden Star by Babayevskiy, How Steel was Annealed by N. Ostrovskiy etc. As a result of this, 40 percent of the girls entered actively into competition and became operators of more than one machine, and some of them such as L. Dimitrova, Petra Stoyanova etc. fulfilled their personal production plans for the first five-year plan and are now working on the second plan, and another 11 girls are now working on the plan for 1953.

The trade unions give great attention to amateur performance activity. Whereas in 1946, there were 700 amateur groups, their number has, in 1950, increased to 2,200 with over 40,000 performers. They present ideologically and artistically advanced programs with which they reap success not only at home, but abroad.

In the first half of 1951, 5 trade unions alone offered 1,190 qualifying courses with 35,233 enrollments.

Our trade unions are continually releasing from among their midst, the best and most honest trade-union cadres, workers and employees, those most devoted to the Party and People's Government, to become leading figures in the administration of the Party, Government and economy, as ministers, deputy ministers, People's representatives, People's councillors, directors of associations and enterprises, officers etc.

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It is necessary to improve unceasingly the cultural work among the masses, to include in it ever wider strata of workers and employees. It should not be forgotten that the desire for knowledge and art is rising in our country from year to year, and it is the duty of trade unions to satisfy the growing range of interests of the working masses.

The cultural work of the trade unions among the masses must of necessity be permeated by Bolshevik ideas and ideals.

The work on the improvement of material living conditions and cultural services to the workers and employees is an objective of the first order for our trade unions.

The trade unions are independent organizations. They are founded on the basis of democratic centralism and involve in their practical activity the widest strata of the working masses. Tens of thousands of workers and employees receive their first introduction into organizational and community life in the trade unions. The wider trade-union democracy is, the more active the participation of all trade-union members in the common work of the union organization, the stronger is the organizing, mobilizing and educational role of the trade unions.

At the Second Congress of OPRs, Georgi Dimitroff set the important task before our trade unions of developing and strengthening union democracy, by improving and ever more widely applying the basic unionist methods of persuasion, influencing by personal example, listening to the voice of the masses, learning from their experience.

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Lenin and Stalin teach us that the principal method of work in the trade unions is not the method of force, but the method of persuasion. That it is important to apply the elective principle to all organs in the trade unions to the widest possible extent in order to abolish the practice of appointments. That the trade unions must take systematic interest in all aspects of the life and living conditions of the worker both on the job and outside.

"The leader of the organization is not a commander. The chairman, the secretary etc., are not bosses. They cannot give orders. They lead by force of persuasion, influence, and especially by personal example." (Georgi Dimitrov before the Second Congress of the ORPS.)

Thanks to the enormous aid received from our brethren the Soviet trade unions, especially the Soviet trade union delegations that have visited our country, our trade unions have, after the resolutions of the Fifth Plenary Session of the TsK of the ORPS, considerably improved the methods and forms of their work. Trade-union democracy which is becoming ever more strongly instilled, involves the masses in more active and conscious creative participation, gives them ever more experience in organizational and community work, and helps in the development of criticism and self-criticism.

The level of general meetings and the school for political education of workers and employees is being raised. The general meetings are an important tool for liaison between trade-unions, economic leaders of the enterprises and the working masses. They are mass tribunes for the widest deployment of criticism and self-criticism which is one of the motive forces of our development.

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"The non-Party masses," comrade Stalin teaches us, "examine their economic, trade and other leaders at non-Party cadre meetings, at mass conferences of every kind, where they listen to reports of their leaders, criticize the deficiencies and find ways for their correction."

Production conferences are likewise among the most important means to express the businesslike and creative activity of the masses and to put into practice their democratic rights. Profiting from the rich experience of Soviet trade unions, our own trade unions are even more using the method of production conferences in factories, enterprises and plants. At production conferences, it is precisely the working people who evaluate the plans for the work. Here they have a chance to point out mistakes and inadequacies in the work and to help in their removal.

One of the most important tasks of the trade unions in our country is under the leadership of the Party, to educate unceasingly, the working class in the spirit of devotion and faith to the great Soviet Union, in the saving and life-giving friendship between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, in the spirit of proletarian internationalism and international labor solidarity, in undying hatred to the inciters of the new world war, the Anglo-American imperialists and their contemptible agents, the Titoists, rightist social traitors and others.

True to the heritage of Georgi Dimitrov, our trade unions are unceasingly acquiring, ever more widely applying, and spreading the rich experience of the Soviet workers and Stakhanovites, the experience of the Soviet labor unions. Our trade unions have strengthened their ties with the labor unions of the countries of the People's Democracy and are

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actively working to strengthen the international unity of labor. The ties between the Bulgarian trade unions and our brethren, the trade unions of the Soviet Union and the countries of the People's Democracy are becoming ever closer and stronger. With the trade unions of the great Soviet Union at the head, and with the trade unions of the People's Democratic countries, the Bulgarian trade unions actively support the struggle of all the democratic trade unions of the world for the defense of interests of the working masses in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries. They are making their contribution to the great struggle of the peoples for the safeguarding and strengthening of peace.

Our trade unions take an active part in the work of the World Federation of Trade Unions. They rejected and condemned the diversive activity of imperialist agents in the international trade union movement like Arthur Dinkin, Carey, Murray and others, and supported the resolution of the World Federation of Trade Unions to expel from its ranks the Titoist agents, the leaders of the Titoist trade unions.

By their work and achievements, the trade unions have demonstrated that they can successfully carry out the work of being the transmitting mechanism from Party to working class, the school of socialism. But in order to even better fulfill this responsible task of theirs, the trade unions must overcome a series of weaknesses, remove a series of flaws in their work.

The struggle against last-minute rushing is not yet at its end. In a number of enterprises, such as the Efraym leather goods factory, through the fault of the trade union organization, the monthly plans are allowed to be rushed to completion in the third ten-day period, when recourse is taken to overtime, shifting workers from one production process to another etc.

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In spite of the considerable successes in the struggle for high-quality production, lowering of costs, economy of material, and the increase of the productivity of labor, the trade unions still allow a series of weaknesses to exist. During the third quarter, the marketing organizations returned over 3,000 meters of woollen cloth to the Runo textile combine because of poor quality. This case is of course not isolated.

In the direction and scoring of competition, perversions are still permitted, such as the "point" system of scoring competitions. This is a bookish and bureaucratic method of scoring a competition by mechanically adding the points obtained in the various phases of the competition. The use of this "point" system by the Okrug Textile and Tailoring Workers' Trade Union Committee in the town of Stalin to a situation where in the fourth quarter of 1950 the Chervena zvezda factory was declared the leading enterprise, although it had fulfilled its plan to only 90.1 percent.

Some Union Locals, even some Okrug trade union committees, have published typical cliché personal pledges which are distributed to the workers for signing. This deadens the individual initiative of the workers, puts competition into a totally undesirable framework, and gives workers no chance to evaluate their own strength and capabilities. Such cliché personal pledges were introduced at the beginning of this year in the enterprises of the second Sofiyski Rayon upon recommendation of the Rayon Committee of the BKP. As a result of this formalistic approach to competition and workers' personal pledges, the workers are handed forms that have no connection with the actual process of production. Such was the case with the Watchman of the Nadezhda glassware factory who also received and signed a pledge form in honor of 9 September saying that he "would give" high-quality production, save

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materials etc.

The supervision of the fulfillment of obligations inherent in the collective labor contracts is likewise still insufficient and unsystematic. Some trade union central committees considerably underestimate the importance of this supervision of collective contracts in general. And another thing: the functionaries of the Trade Union Central Committee, circumventing the union locals in the enterprises, have been interested in everything except the fulfillment of the collective contracts.

The level of the production conferences is not as high as could be desired. The Central Committee of the construction workers did not, between January and September this year, consider the question of production conferences, nor did it carry out any supervision or give help to the locals in the matter of holding these. There are also such plants as the Gara Krichim cellulose plant where from the beginning of the year until August no production conferences were held.

Although the cadre membership of the trade unions is enormous and represents one fourth of the total of workers and employees, over 200,000, still not all of them are being utilized or involved in concrete and to-the-point activities. Because of failure to set adequate tasks and to give systematic help to the trade union cadres, cadre members in many cases fall out or remain on paper only. The Dimitrov Miners' Okrug Committee has a cadre of 2,845 elected and voluntary members, 85 percent of whom take no active part in trade union life.

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The trade unions/help of the Party have before them the task of liquidating these and other weaknesses, of putting into the center of their organizational and production activity even more integrally the

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rich experience of our brethren of the Soviet trade unions, to strengthen the unionist links and especially the locals, shop committees and shift committees.

The successes of the working class and the trade unions are unthinkable, impossible, without the constant leadership and help of the Communist Party headed by its Dimitrovice Central Committee and comrade Vulko Chervenkov.

The responsible tasks now before the trade unions will be fulfilled completely and the more successfully, if the leadership of the Party is better and more complete. Leadership by the Party is the source of strength for the trade unions. Everyday practice shows that wherever the Party organization is leaning upon a sound trade-union base for the mobilization of forces of the working masses, positive results appear. The improvement of the work of the Party organization in the trade union organization of the Sofia Mechanical plant changed this backward enterprise into a double first-place winner and bearer of the flag of the Council of Ministers.

Under the leadership of the Okrug, okoliya and town committees of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the initiative for individual and group pledges to comrade Vulko Chervenkov for the fulfillment of this year's plan ahead of schedule came from the masses of the workers and employees. By the end of this September, over 77 percent of the workers and employees had entered socialist competition by their individual and group pledges. In many enterprises (the Bobov dol mine, the Proletariy factory, the Bulgaria factory, the Studena dam) over 95 percent of the workers and employees entered their pledges.

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Thanks to good organizational work among Party and trade union organizations, the trade union committee in the Georgi Dimitrov chemical plant now has at its disposal a trade-union cadre of 300 voluntary and elective members, and in the Bulgaria factory the commissions for culture among the masses alone have involved over 100 members.

The third Party conference seriously calls to the attention of Party organizers and communists the need for a struggle against any under-estimation of the trade-union organizations, the need to support them with all their strength, to give direction and leadership to their work for the fulfillment of all the objectives in the building of socialism in our country.

In fulfilling these tasks, the Party committees, such as the ones in the V. Kolarov power plant, the Petko Napetov book factory, the Proletariy factory, the DIP 23 December, the Bulgaria factory, and many others, are ever more becoming interested in cooperation with the trade union. They participate in the sessions of the trade-union bodies, they seek to make every communist accountable and responsible for some responsible job in the trade-union organizations etc.

The leadership and aid of the Party organizations make itself felt in a particularly beneficial manner in concluding and accounting for the collective labor contracts, and during the accounting and electoral campaign of the trade unions. The Party bureaus were present at trade-union meetings and conferences, they verified accounts, they helped and led.

"The task of the primary Party organizations," says comrade Vulko Chervenkov, "is to fight against any underestimation of the trade union, youth, and Patriotic Front organizations, which are powerful transmissions linking the Party vanguard to the working class, to the masses of the

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working people. Their task is to strengthen them with all their might, to direct and lead their work towards our common great goal -- the building of a socialist society."

It must, however, be said that these directives of comrade Chervenkov's are not being followed to the fullest by many Party committees. The Vratsa Okrug Party Conference showed that the okoliya Party committees, except for the town committees of Vratsa, Lom, and Vidin, are not familiar with the objectives and the structure of the trade unions. The Stalinskiy Rayon Committee in Sofia did not participate in trade-union work and gave no instructions to Party secretaries for their work with trade union organizations. Such an attitude towards the trade union organizations is then also transmitted to the primary Party organizations in the enterprises and results in the non-fulfillment of production plans and deprives the trade-union organizations of their authority.

The Party organizations and committees must definitely improve their leadership of the trade-union organizations, to enable our trade unions to carry out more energetically the policies of the Party, to group the masses of workers and employers even more closely around the Party, to involve them through competition in an even more active struggle for the building of socialism in our country.

During this coming December, the Third Congress of the General Workers' Trade Union will be held. The Congress of the ORPS will be an important event in the life of the working masses of our People's Republic. The Congress will give an evaluation of the participation of the trade unions in the building of socialism and will pay an important

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part in the further improvement of the work of our trade unions as schools of communism.

Under the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party, unceasingly learning from the rich experience of the Soviet trade unions, our trade unions will report to the Party and the ORPS Congress even greater victories of labor. This will be their greatest contribution to the strengthening of the world for peace and democracy, headed by the mighty Soviet Union and the foremost defender of peace, the great Stalin.

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